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Message Text

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40
ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 OMB-01 FRB-02 EB-11 ACDA-19 SS-15 NSC-10

CIAE-00 PM-07 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01

USIA-12 TRSE-00 MBFR-03 SAJ-01 RSR-01 /126 W
---------- 074538
R 281303 Z JUN 73
FM AMEMBASSY BONN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5972
INFO SECDEF WASHDC
USMISSION NATO BRUSSELS
AMEMBASSY ROME
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY PARIS
USNMR SHAPE BRUSSELS

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E. O. 11652: N/ A
TAGS: GW, MCAP
SUBJECT: FRG DEFENSE BUDGET FOR 1973

REF: BONN A-346, MAY 31, 1973

1. WITH LITTLE CONTROVERSY, THE BUDESTAG PASSED THE GOVERNMENT' S DM 26.5 BILLION DEFENSE BUDGET FOR 1973 ON JUNE 18. NEWSPAPER ACCOUNTS STATE THE DM 26.5 BILLION IN THE REGULAR DEFENSE BUDGET AMOUNTS TO AN 8.9 PERCENT INCREASE IN THE 1972 BUDGET. AS EXPECTED, AN ADDITIONAL DM 675 MILLION WAS APPROVED FOR PROCUREMENT OF DE- FENSE EQUIPMENT IN THE GENERAL FINANCES SECTION OF THE GOVERNMENT' S BUDGET. THE VOTE WAS A DEMONSTRATION OF THE SUPPORT WHICH GERMANS OF PRACTICALLY ALL POLITICAL VIEWS GIVE DEFENSE AND SECURITY MATTERS. THE CDU/ CSU AND FDP VOTED UNANIMOUSLY IN FAVOR OF THE BUDGET; NINE SPD DEP-
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UTIES ABSTAINED. 392 VOTES WERE CAST IN FAVOR; NONE AGAINST. OPPOSITION TO THE BUDGET WAS ONLY VOICED ON THE FRINGES OF THE DEBATE AND WAS LIMITED TO SPD LEFT- WING.

2. HIGHLIGHT OF THE DEBATE WAS DEFENSE MINISTER LEBER' S HEATED WARNING AGAINST ANY CUT IN HIS BUDGET, WHICH HE DESCRIBED AS THE MINIMUM CONSISTENT WITH FRG SECURITY NEEDS. AN IMPORTANT PART OF HIS PRESENTATION WAS A DE-TAILED REVIEW OF THE GROWTH OF THE SOVIET FORCES IN EAST GERMANY DURING THE LAST FEW YEARS. DURING THE DE-BATE, THE CDU/ CSU WARMLY GREETED LEBER' S PRESENTATION, BUT THE LARGER PART OF THE SPD FACTION REMAINED SILENT. INDEED, WHEN WOERNER, THE CDU DEFENSE EXPERT, THANKED LEBER FOR HIS " CLEAR AND COURAGEOUS WORDS," SOME OF THE SPD BACKBENCHERS MUTTERED CRITICISM OF LEBER FOR HIS TOUGH TALK ABOUT THE SOVIET MILITARY THREAT. ACCORDING TO NEWSPAPER ACCOUNTS, SOME SPD DEPUTIES BELIEVED THE GOVERNMENT HAD NOT CONSULTED ADEQUATELY WITH THE PARTY' S BUNDESTAG FACTION IN PREPARING THE BUDGET. DESPITE THEIR VOTES FOR THE BUDGET, MANY SPD DEPUTIES WOULD HAVE PRE-FERRED A FREEZE ON THE DEFENSE EXPENDITURES. THE FDP FACTION WAS REPORTEDLY ALSO COOL TO LEBER' S PRESENTATION. ONE FDP DELEGATE SAID HIS PARTY FACTION APPROVED THE DEFENSE BUDGET BUT NOT LEBER' S SPEECH. IN PARTICULAR, THE FDP FACTION WAS NOT SYMPATHETIC TO THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE NEW BUDESWEHR ACADEMIES, TO WHICH THE FDP EARLIER GAVE CONDITIONAL APPROVAL.
HILLENBRAND

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*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a
*** Current Classification *** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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Message Attributes

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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: boyleja
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Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Subject: FRG DEFENSE BUDGET FOR 1973
TAGS: MCAP, GW
To: BRUSSELS
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NATO BRUSSELS
PARIS
ROME
SECSTATE WASHDC

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THE HAGUE
WASHDC
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

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